Rs. (crores)

	Export from India	*Import from China*
1988-90	66.33	141.94
1989-90	39.10	65.84
1990-91	32.55	63.62

Source: DGCI & S

(c) and (d). The India-China Joint Business Council in its meeting held on 17.2. 92 identified the following areas for technology transfer and etblishment of joint ventures to increase bilateral trade:

1. Metallurgy
2. Chemicals for agriculture sector
3. Petrochemicals
4. Food processing
5. Sericulture
6. Automobile components
7. Telecommunication equipments and computer software.

Rates of Interest of Loans Advanced to Rubber Planters

2991. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of interstat which the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development advances loans to banks for rubber plantation;

(b) the rates of interest at which the bank advance loans to rubber plantro;

(c) whether the Government have received some complaints of charging high rates of interest from the planters by the banks during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that in respect of loans for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO), the rate of interest of the refinance is dependent on the percentage of average borrowings from NABARD to the average outstandings against Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the Central Cooperative Bank Level during the Year. Thus interest rate on refinance are as follows:

Percentage of average borrowings from NABARD to the average outstandings against PACs at CB level	*Rate of interest on refinance percent per annum*
Less than 34	3.00
34 and above but below 37	3.00
37 and above but below 40	3.50
40 and above but below 45	4.00
45 and above but below 50	4.50
50 and above but below 58	5.00
58 and above but below 67	5.50
67 and above but below 80	6.00
80 and above	6.50

Rate of interest charged by NABARD on its refinance to banks for term including Plantation and horticulture loans are as under:-

	Size of limit	*Rate of interest on refinance*
i)	Upto Rs. 15,000/-	6.5%
ii)	Over Rs. 15,000/- and upto Rs. 50,000/-	7.5%
iii)	Over Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs	10.5%
iv)	Above Rs. 2 lakhs	0.5% below the rate of interest charged by NABARD

(b) Rate of interest charged by banks to ultimate borrowers on terms loans for plantation/ horticulture:

i)	Upto and Inclusive of Rs. 7,500/-	11.5%
ii)	Over Rs. 7,500/- and upto Rs. 15,000/-	13.0%
iii)	Over Rs. 15,000/- and upto Rs. 25,000/-	13.5%
iv)	Over Rs. 25,000/- and upto Rs. 50,000/-	14.0%
v)	Oover Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs	15.0%
vi)	Over Rs. 2 lakhs	15.0% (Mimumum)

(c) to (e). NABARD has reported that a representation was received by them in December 1991 urging to reduce the interest on the outstanding term loan provided for rubber plantation by a financing bank. The interest rates charged by financing bank to the ultimate borrower are according to the instructions of RBI issued from time to time. The grant of any concession/compromises over repayments are settled mutually between the financing bank and the borrower.

Imoort of Newsprint Through S.T.C.

2992. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported though the State Trading Corporation during 1989-90 and 1990-91 and proposed to be imported during 1991-92;

(b) the profit or loss made by the State Trading Corporation on account of the import of newspring during the above years and the estimates for the current year;

(c) whether the Government are aware that reported reduction in the import price has not yet made any impact on the retail market; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity of newsprint imported by STC during the three years is as under:-

Financial Year	*Qty. in Mt Quantity*
1989-90	224,000
1990-91	226,000
1991-92 (Prov.)	215,000

(b) STC gets only a service charge at the rate of 1% of CIF cost of sales on imported newsprint for recovering overheads.

(c) and (d). STC distributes the imported newsprint at issue price fixed by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of I&B to the allottees of the Newspaper Industry as decided by Registrar of Newspaper Industries. There is no statutory control over the price of indigenous newsprint.

Opening of Branches of Urban Cooperative Banks

2993. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has completed the work relating to scrutinising the proposals for opening of branches submitted by Urban Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such branches proposed to be opened in each State; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the Branch Licensing Programme for Urban Cooperative Banks (1991-94), 651 banks have sent applications for allotment of over 2000 branches in different States. Several applications received by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) were either incomplete or not satisfying the prescribed norms. From the eligible applications 379